

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 17 and 18 as set out below:

sub P1
1. [Three Times Amended] A method of conducting a specific binding assay for the presence of an analyte in a cell sample which method comprises the steps of:

i) mixing a sample of cells with a cell lysis reagent to provide a lysed cellular sample;

101
ii) mixing the lysed cellular sample with a specific binding partner of the analyte to perform a specific binding assay by forming a reaction mixture comprising a specific binding partner-analyte complex;

iii) mixing the lysed cellular sample with a cyclodextrin sequestrant for the cell lysis reagent, whereby the specific binding assay of step ii) is performed in the presence of the sequestrant; and

iv) detecting the presence of the specific binding partner-analyte complex the presence of which is indicative of the presence of the analyte in the sample.

sub P3
17. [Amended] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specific binding partner is labeled with a tracer.

102
sub FH
18. [Amended] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specific binding partner is labeled with a label selected from the group consisting of radioactive isotope labels, enzyme-linked labels and fluorescent labels.